Title: Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Maharashtra to cope with severe drought in the State.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there have been unprecedented drought conditions prevailing in the entire State of Maharashtra. Such a severe drought has never been witnessed by the State before. This has badly affected not only the crop but the entire economy of the State. The drought posed a serious threat before the peasants and the marginal farmers. The production of orange has been adversely affected which has put the farmers and the traders to tremendous losses.

The acute shortage of water and cattle fodder is further endangering the health of the cattle and also creating exasperating situation in the State. There has been considerable fall in the water level of dams which has miserably affected the yield of the main crops of the region. The State is in severe financial constraints and requires immediate assistance to cope up with various stringencies.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to come to the rescue of the State Government of Maharashtra by extending appropriate financial help not less than Rs. 1,000 crore to meet the situation.